

Remarks

Claims 22-34, 36-42, and 44 are now pending in this application. Applicant has amended claim 22 and cancelled claim 46 to clarify the present invention. Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of this application.

The Examiner indicated that claim 46 recites allowable subject matter. Applicants have incorporated the subject matter of claim 46 into claim 22, from which claim 46 depended. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 46 and all other claims, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 46 are allowable.

The Examiner rejected claims 22, 27, and 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 3,795,005 to Monser et al. The Examiner rejected claims 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Monser et al. in view of U.S. patent 6,043,785 to Marino. The Examiner rejected claims 25, 26, and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Monser et al. in view of U.S. patent 5,801,660 to Ohtsuka et al. The Examiner rejected claims 28-34, 36, 39-42, and 44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Monser et al.

These rejections are moot in view of the amendment of claim 22 to recite subject matter that the Examiner has indicated is allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that this case is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of this case and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance.

If an interview would advance the prosecution of this case, Applicant respectfully urges the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge fee insufficiency and credit overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 27, 2009

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